



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA SETS NEW RECORDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS LENDING

Santa Ana – The Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) set new records in its small business financing programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, the period from Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2003. New records were set in total number of loans to minority and women borrowers. The Santa Ana District includes Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

A total of 2230 loans with a total dollar amount of \$667 million were made in fiscal year 2003, an increase of 27 percent over last year in total number of loans. In Orange County the total number of loans made was 1,313 with a dollar amount of \$385 million, an increase of 28 percent in the number of loans. In Riverside County 461 loans were made with a dollar amount of \$147 million, an increase of 30 percent in number of loans. In San Bernardino County 455 loans were made with a dollar amount of \$134 million, an increase of 19 percent in number of loans.

There was also significant growth within the district of loans to minorities and women. All minority groups and women business owners saw an increase in loan numbers. Nine hundred thirteen (913) loans were made to minorities in FY 2003 up from 643 in FY 2002. Loans to women increased from 263 in FY 2002 to 386 in FY 2003.

The Santa Ana District was 2nd in the nation in total dollars loaned and 9th in the nation for total number of loans. Santa Ana was again the leading district in the nation for total 504 loans made with 394 for \$220 million.

In other SBA program areas, over 23,000 entrepreneurs received business counseling and technical assistance through the SBA District office SCORE and the Small Business Development Centers. Firms in SBA's 8(a) program in the Santa Ana District portfolio received \$123.8 million in government contracts. There are 179 firms in the District's 8(a) portfolio. SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program provides management and technical assistance, networking and federal contracting opportunities to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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